

31 October 1950



Dear Senator Wadsworth:

The rather stilted letter which I wrote to Oscar Solbert, when the proposed dinner in your honor was scheduled for June 24th, is a far cry from the expression of my real sentiments. Later, when this dinner was postponed until September, I had confidently expected to attend but the dinner date found me in Walter Reed convalescing from an operation.

I want to tell you, however, in a most personal way, of the deep affection and respect which I, like most other officers of our Army, have for you. It seems only yesterday that I was a junior officer in General Marshall's staff secretariat during the critical period before the war, and before rearmament had become popular. There are few who know as well as I how the Chief of Staff looked to you as a tower of strength and as one of the small group who appreciated our critical situation and the terrible prospects in store for us.

You will probably not remember it but, on one occasion, I even had the temerity to prepare a draft of a speech which the War Department had hoped you might use as the basis for some remarks on the Floor. Fortunately, it was unnecessary for you to do this but I recall with pleasure that you were kind enough to say a complimentary word about my efforts.

Your retirement from the Senate is much more than an official loss to the Service which has admired and completely trusted you for so many years -- it is a personal loss even to those like myself who had only the remote contact with you that was possible to relatively junior officers on the General Staff.

In writing this letter I have indulged in a good deal more sentiment than I usually allow myself but in case others are more restrained, I think you should know how the relics of the prewar Army feel about you. It may be some slightly added satisfaction to the much greater one which you must enjoy through the realization of years of distinguished service.

Faithfully,

W. B. Smith



Senator James W. Wadsworth
Geneseo
New York